FISCAL NOTE

SB 420 – HB 442

March 24, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Decreases, from quarterly to at least twice per year, the number of times the Statewide Planning and Policy Council must meet each year.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Expenditures - $600

Other Fiscal Impact – There will be a decrease of $3,500 in Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block grant funds used for travel expenses. These funds will be spent on other administrative or grant services.

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Council consists of 51 members, including 24 members representing mental health, 11 representing substance abuse, 2 legislative members, and 14 ex-officio members.
- The 24 members representing mental health are reimbursed for travel expenses out of the CMHS block grant.
- The 11 members representing substance abuse are reimbursed for travel expenses out of the SAPT block grant.
- Travel expenses for 35 (24 +11) active members to attend four meetings per year are $7,000 ($4,800 CMHS block grant + $2,200 SAPT block grant).
- Reducing the number of meetings by one-half will have a corresponding decrease in travel reimbursements, resulting in a decrease in these expenditures of $3,500 [($4,800 CMHS block grant + $2,200 SAPT block grant) / 2].
- These funds are a portion of the five percent administrative allocation. These savings will be used for other administrative expenses of the Statewide Council or for block grant supported community services.
- The two legislative members will attend two fewer meetings each year. Legislative members receive $176 per diem plus $126.96 mileage for each meeting resulting in a decrease in state expenditures of $606 [($176 + $126.96) x 2].

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James W. White, Executive Director

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